

***Informal Workshop on Stakeholders' Information Needs on
Chemicals in Articles/Products
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Abstract

REACH: Information requirements on chemicals in articles in the new EU Chemicals regulation.

Eva Sandberg, European Chemicals Agency, Helsinki, Finland

The new European Chemicals regulation on Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals, REACH, became operational on 1 June 2008. From this date on the process for requiring authorisation for the use of substances of very high concern (SVHC) could start. The first step in this process is to identify substances that meet the criteria for being of very high concern, i.e. substances that are:

- Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or toxic to Reproduction (CMR) category 1 or 2, according to the criteria of Directive 67/548/EEC
- Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT) according to the criteria in Annex XIII of the REACH Regulation or
- very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative (vPvB) according to the criteria in Annex XIII of the REACH Regulation and/or
- identified, on a case-by-case basis, from scientific evidence as causing probable serious effects to humans or the environment of an equivalent level of concern as those above e.g. endocrine disrupters.

Substances identified as being of very high concern are then placed on the Candidate list. From the date of inclusion certain obligations come into force:

- EU or EEA suppliers of articles which contain substances on the Candidate List in a concentration above 0.1% (w/w) have to provide sufficient information, available to them, to their customers or
- upon requests, to a consumer within 45 days of the receipt of the request.

This information must ensure safe use of the article and as minimum contain the name of the substance.

The first candidate list containing 15 different substances was adopted on 28 October 2008 and thus the information obligations for these substances are already in force.